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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,727	02/15/2001	John C. Crandall	10004863-1	2639

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EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2002

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/784,727**

Applicant(s)  
**Crاندall et al.**

Examiner  
**Fritz Alphonse**

Art Unit  
**2675**



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 15, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2675

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hildebrandt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,774,514) in view of Allen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,768,633).

As to claim 1, Hildebrandt (figs. 1-8) teaches about a communications system comprises a plurality of communications units fixedly mounted onboard an airplane (see figures 7-8; col. 4, lines 33-60), each of said communications units being adapted to be operated by an associated passenger to perform digital image viewing functions (col. 7, lines 14-38), whereby each of said communications units comprises at least one receiver adapted to receive image data (col. 7, lines 39-48). Hildebrandt (fig. 6) shows processor (16) operatively connected to one receiver and a video screen (col. 5, lines 14-68).

Hildebrandt does not teach about a communications unit comprising one receiver to receive image data from a digital camera.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Allen (fig. 6) teaches about a communication system comprising one receiver (74) to receive image data captured from a digital camera (28). (see figure 6; col. 4, lines 16-36).

Art Unit: 2675

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to improve upon the data transmission system, as disclosed by Allen. Doing so would be a convenient way to combine the information handling capability of modern cameras with image recording so that information can easily be accessed about a photographed item.

As to claim 2, Hildebrandt teaches about a communications system wherein a first plurality of said plurality of communications units are fixedly mounted within seatbacks on said airplane (see figure 8).

As to claim 3, Hildebrandt teaches about a communications system, each of said communications units further comprising control apparatus operatively connected to said at least one processor and said video screen which is adapted to control said image data on said video screen (figs. 6-7; col. 5, lines 14-68).

As to claim 4, Hildebrandt (figs. 6-8) teaches about a communications system, each of said communications units further comprising a video monitor, said video monitor comprising said video screen (figs. 6-7; col. 5, lines 14-33).

As to claim 5, Hildebrandt does not teach about a receiver which is a digital camera memory card reader adapted to receive a memory card from a digital camera. However, this limitation is disclosed by Allen (col. 4, lines 16-36). See the motivation above.

As to claims 6-7, Hildebrandt does not teach about an infrared receiver adapted to communicate with an infrared transmitter on a digital camera, and wherein said receiver is a

Art Unit: 2675

radio signal receiver adapted to communicate with a radio signal transmitter on a digital camera. However, these limitations are disclosed by Allen (see figure 6; col. 2, lines 61 through col. 3, line 20).

As to claims 8-10, Hildebrandt (figs. 1-8) teaches about one remote connection device adapted to connect each of said communications units to a remote location; the communications system further comprising a central processing unit; wherein said at least one processor and said at least one remote connection device are located within said central processing unit (col. 5, lines 14-33).

As to claim 11, Hildebrandt does not teach about a remote connection device adapted to connect each of the communications units to the Internet. However, this limitation is disclosed by Allen (see abstract).

3. Claims 12-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hildebrandt in view of McCarten (U.S. Pat. No. 5,959,596).

As to claim 12, Hildebrandt (figs. 1-8) teaches about a communications system comprises a plurality of communications units fixedly mounted onboard an airplane (see figures 7-8; col. 4, lines 33-60), each of said communications units being adapted to be operated by an associated passenger (col. 7, lines 14-38).

Hildebrandt does not teach about a communications units comprises a scanner adapted to scan a document and display a scanned image of said document on a video screen; and at least one processor operatively connected to said scanner and said video screen.

Art Unit: 2675

However, in the same field of endeavor, Hildebrandt (fig. 4) discloses an airline-based communications system comprises a scanner (88) adapted to scan a document and display a scanned image of said document on a video screen (90); and at least one processor (84) operatively connected to said scanner and said video screen (col. 7, lines 32-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hildebrandt by specifically providing a seat display unit including a scanner adapted to scan a document, as disclosed by McCarten. Doing so would advantageously permits each passenger to have access to a magnetic card reader which is used to read information stored on the magnetic strip of a user's credit card.

As to claims 13-14, Hildebrandt teaches about a communications system wherein a first plurality of said plurality of communications, units are fixedly mounted within seatbacks on said airplane (see figures 7-8;); and wherein each of said communications units further comprising apparatus operatively connected to said at least one processor and said video screen which is adapted to control said scanned image on said video screen (fig. 5-6; col. 5, lines 14-33).

As to claims 15-16, Hildebrandt (figs. 6-8) teaches about a communications system, wherein each of said communications units further comprising a video monitor, said video monitor comprising said video screen; and wherein each of said communications units further comprising a PC connection device adapted to connect said scanner to a passenger's personal computer comprising said video screen (figs. 7-8; col. 5, lines 14-33).

Art Unit: 2675

As to claim 17, the claim has substantially the limitations of claim 12. Therefore, it is analyzed as previously discussed in claim 17 above.

As to claims 18-19, Hildebrandt (figs. 5-6) teaches about a communications system comprising a central processing unit (16) operatively connected to said plurality of communications units (col. 2, lines 39-50), wherein said at least one processor and said at least one remote connection device are located within said central processing unit (col. 5, lines 14-33).

As to claim 21, the claim differs from claim 12 only by the additional limitation "one remote connection device adapted to connect said communications units to a remote location". However, this limitation is clearly disclosed by McCarten (col. 4, lines 14-26). See the motivation above.

As to claim 22, the claim differs from claim 12 only by the additional limitation "one receiver adapted to receive image data from a digital camera and display said image data on a video screen".

However, this is very obvious. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a receiver capable of receiving digital image data or text data from any input device (i.e., digital camera) under the control of a CPU. The motivation would have been a desire to obtain a display system with high quality image and with less unevenness.

4. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hildebrandt and McCarten as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Allen.

Art Unit: 2675

As to claim 20, Allen does not teach about a remote connection device adapted to connect each communications units to the Internet. However, this limitation is disclosed by Allen (see abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to improve upon the data transmission system, as disclosed by Allen. Doing so would be a convenient way to combine the information handling capability of modern cameras with image recording so that information can easily be accessed about a photographed item.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Snyder et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,999,015) discloses an aircraft multi-communications system.

Ord (U.S. Pat. No. 3,704,845) discloses an airplane hijacking prevention system.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse whose telephone number is (703) 308-8534.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



Art Unit: 2675

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 ( for Technology Center 2600 only )**


Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone  
number is (703) 306-0377.

  
F. Alphonse

Art Unit: 2675

September 24, 2002

  
**STEVEN SARAS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**